

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

DECEMBER 25, 2003

## City Focuses on Service Available for Seniors

by Barbara Hopkins

Greenbelt is “an inspired place for seniors,” according to the report by the Greenbelt Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC) to the city council on its open forum held on September 13.

Councilmembers heard more about and from its senior citizens at its regular meeting on December 15.

### Resource Advocate

In the short time since the position was created, Greenbelt’s Community Resource Advocate (CRA) has garnered a following of loyal supporters who appeared before the city council on December 15 to petition council to make the position permanent. The position, created under a NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) program with funding that is expected to last until the end of this fiscal year, was filled for the first time last March when the city hired Cristal Parker Batey. The mandate of the office is to act as a clearing house to guide seniors to information and benefits available to them through government, public and private programs.

Phyllis Budin, addressing council as spokesperson for the SCAC, requested that the CRA position continue. In making the request, Budin praised Batey, saying she thought Batey “can really help our community very much.”

Leonie Penney also spoke in support of the idea, saying she

was speaking for herself as well as Friends of the Resource Advocate, a group which evolved from a subcommittee of the now-dissolved assistance in living task force. Penney said people’s lives have been “touched and changed” by Batey and she encouraged council to actively pursue funding now to continue the position. Mayor Judith Davis assured Penney that she sees the value of the CRA and, barring a “tragedy” in the budget, funding for the position would be found “one way or the other.” She said staff has already been working on this issue.

City Manager Michael McLaughlin said the city is exploring the possibility of joining forces with College Park and Bowie in applying for a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which is accepting applications to fund pilot programs for communities with at least 10,000 seniors. The effects of two considerations remain to be seen for this possibility: whether three combined communities would be eligible for such a grant and whether Greenbelt, with a program in place already, would be eligible for a pilot program. In any case, this is one source of funding that staff is pursuing.

### Needs Assessment

Earlier in the evening, Todd Sukol, president of Sukol Communications, spoke to council to

See **SENIORS**, page 7

## Mother Forgives Hit-and-run Driver Who Killed Her Daughter

by James Giese

This is the true story of the tragic loss of the promising life of a young woman, with strong ties to Greenbelt, due to a hit-and-run accident by a driver under the influence of alcohol. It is also about a loving mother who experienced the trauma of seeing and caring for her comatose child as her life slipped away, who helped to capture the runaway driver responsible for her daughter’s death and then not only forgave him but made it her responsibility to see that he had a chance to make a better life for himself.

Jessica Lynne Wacker was a 20-year-old with a promising future. She was smart as a whip, talented, a friend to many, attractive and working her way through college. Although not raised in Greenbelt, she had strong roots to the community. Her grandparents were former Greenbelt City Clerk Gudrun and Charles Mills. Her mother, Monica, and aunt Gina were raised in Greenbelt. She often visited mom-mom and pop-pop at their home. As a child she



Jessica Wacker with her mother, Monica Mills Johnston in November 2000.

participated in Camp Pine Tree and other city recreational programs. Sometimes she would stay at the city office with her grandmother until her mother could pick her up after a recreation program session. An avid reader, she would find a quiet spot in which to read and keep out of harm’s way.

At age 20 Jessica had completed two years of study at the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus. Taking a break from her courses, she was work-

ing full time as a waitress at Bill Bateman’s Bistro in Severna Park. She worked until the restaurant closed, preferring the late night work because the tips were more generous.

In March 2002 she was staying with her grandmother. Charles Mills, who died this May, suffered from Lewy Body Dementia and had been placed in a nursing home. Jessica was keeping company and giving support to her mom-mom.

On the morning of March 23, Jessica was returning home from work on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway when her car broke down. She pulled to the side of the road, called for roadside assistance and waited.

### Demolished

U.S. Park Police found Jessica unconscious in her demolished car. The car had rolled over several times. Near her car was an abandoned, wrecked minivan.

Jessica’s mother, Monica Mills Johnston, relates the story from

See **FORGIVENESS**, page 12

## City Gets "Liveable" Grant, But Projects Are Scaled Down

by Barbara Hopkins

Greenbelt has received a municipal grant from the Liveable Communities program, a favored initiative of County Executive Jack Johnson. Because the city had requested \$118,000 but received only \$85,000, proposals for using the money had to be scaled down.

At the December 15 meeting of the Greenbelt City Council, City Manager Michael McLaughlin shared with council how the city plans to use the funds. He said \$35,000 would go for playground improvements at Schrom Hills Park and another small park. He said the city has already upgraded 18 of the 31 parks deemed by staff to need it.

Since some residents of Springhill Lake have problems getting to the city center to avail themselves of the services of Greenbelt CARES, \$20,000 will be used to enable CARES to provide some services in that neighborhood.

Crosswalk improvements at Cherrywood Lane near the Giant

grocery store will receive \$15,000 and another \$15,000 will be used to improve technology for code enforcement, McLaughlin said.

The city’s grant proposal had requested \$10,000 for volunteer incentives, which McLaughlin described as the “least defined” project in the proposal. With the amount received substantially lower than that requested, he said the city will allocate no funds for this project.

The city will also take advantage of that part of the Liveable Communities program that will make resources from the County Redevelopment Authority available at no charge to help improve Roosevelt Center.

### What Goes On Sunday, December 28

Greenbelt Museum will be closed

Wednesday, December 31 to Thursday, January 1

7 p.m. to 1 a.m. – Greenbelt New Year events

## City Staff Looks at Traffic Problems in Greenbelt East

by James Giese

The Greenbelt Police and city staff have been looking into a variety of traffic issues in Greenbelt East and attempting to improve the situations noted, according to memorandums furnished by the police and others to City Manager Michael McLaughlin.

### Left Turns

During morning rush hours, traffic on eastbound Greenbelt Road trying to turn onto Hanover Parkway is backing up in the left turn lane. Traffic must make the turn on a green arrow. This has caused some scofflaws to bypass the left turn lane and turn from the left through lane onto Hanover Parkway on the green light.

Master Police Officer Scott Kaiser reported in a December 3 memorandum that he and other officers had been monitoring the intersection on nine different days since November 12 and had written 19 violations. The most had occurred on the first day of surveillance, seven. Kaiser observed that several times officers stopped school buses and Metro buses committing these violations. Apparently word of the city enforcement efforts has got-

ten out, as the number of violations declined after the first day. Also, police sent letters to Metro and the school bus lot informing them of the violations observed.

### Speeders

Another issue brought to the attention of police was speeding in Greenbelt East on Megan Lane and Ora Glen Drive. Over a two month period, Kaiser conducted speed checks on various streets in Greenbelt East without observing any violations except for two on Ora Glen Drive. These checks were made at various times of the day. Kaiser said in his memorandum, “I do not doubt the fact that there are people speeding but it is not happening while we are sitting over there.”

“Speeders seem to be the exception, not the rule on Ora Glen Drive,” Kaiser wrote in an August 2 memorandum. The average speed of the 80-90 cars traveling the street in an hour was 34 miles per hour. The posted speed limit is 30 miles per hour. The highest speed observed was 48 miles per hour. Kaiser noted that with one exception, all the vehicles stopped were local residents who stated that they did

not realize they were traveling as fast as they were.

Kaiser believes that police enforcement needs to be concentrated in the residential area of Hanover Parkway where speeds in excess of 15 miles above the speed limit have been regularly observed.

### Traffic Calming

Planning and Community Development Director Celia Craze also has provided McLaughlin with a memorandum on the commercial section of Ora Glen Drive. This one deals with the feasibility of traffic calming there. She says that a survey done in 1998 indicated that traffic calming was justified because 85th percentile speeds were more than seven miles per hour over the speed limit. Craze recommends that initially traffic calming be done in a manner similar to that done on Cherrywood Lane in Springhill Lake. “We would first develop a striping plan,” she recommended, “which would accomplish a number of traffic calming design objectives – road narrowing, creation of horizontal displacements, provid-

See **TRAFFIC**, page 7



# Letters to the Editor

## Donations Update, More Help Needed

Starting November 25 to this date the legendary generosity of Greenbelters has been once again demonstrated. Thanks to the generosity of Greenbelters from all over the city and donors from neighboring communities, we collected enough money to send each of the fire victim families checks for over \$450. They will receive the money in time for the Christmas holidays.

Unfortunately, because of their great losses, more donations would be greatly appreciated. We have been told that some people thought there was a deadline for sending in donations that had passed. This is not the case. We will be able to receive donations through the end of May

2004. So if some of you wanted to give but thought it was too late or if you have not been aware of the fund drive, you still have an opportunity to help the fire victims.

As our manager, Steve Bupp, indicated in last week's News Review, the fire victims have been very patient and cooperative. I have been very impressed with their indomitable courage in the face of adversity.

Checks should be made out to Greenbriar Condos Ph. II – Donation Fund and may be mailed or brought to Greenbriar Condominiums Phase II, 7600 Hanover Parkway, Suite 101, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Thank you so much for your help.

Arlene Shpiegelman,  
President, Board of Directors Phase II

## Growing Up In Greenbelt

by Gloria Shelton Drake

At the beginning of the Second World War, the families who were first to move into the Defense homes, built in Greenbelt to last "for the duration" were often without the male head of the household.

My father was in the Navy serving in the South Pacific. He was on the Tinian in the Mariannas when the Enola Gay took off from there to bomb Japan with the first atomic bomb used by the U.S.

In those days Greenbelt High School had six grades - 7 through 12. I was in the seventh grade when Dad returned home and like many other families my parents had to relearn to share responsibility for my upbringing. I was often at the Drop Inn, a Quonset hut donated to Greenbelt to use as a Youth Center. It was a wonderful place. It had a jukebox, snack bar, dancing, romancing and, oh yes, a study room.

Greenbelt had tennis courts and the only public swimming pool in the county. In the summer when we weren't playing tennis or in the pool, we were sitting on the hillside beside the pool socializing.

During the school year, we attended social functions and athletic activities in Greenbelt Center Elementary School (now the Community Center). There were school plays and operettas, basketball games, formal dances and All Greenbelt Night. At that time, we took for granted walking to all of those wonderful events that filled our lives with friendly competition and pure fun!

I imagine on any night that activities were scheduled, 99 percent of the students and their parents attended and the other one percent were too ill to get out of the house.

We went on hayrides to Great Falls, Va. in the back of Wesley Bryan's truck. The Wilson Line took us down the Potomac on moonlight cruises. There was a grown up "nite club" for teens in Hyattsville, called Hy-Tac, where I saw some of the best dancers I

have ever seen in my life.

Only a few of my friends had part time jobs, usually in the drug store, gas station or 5-and 10-cent store. The rest of us spent our spare time supporting our school, participating in community activities and going on dates.

Dating in those days was tricky and usually involved going to the movies.

A girl would often buy her own ticket and candy bar. You would arrange to sit next to a vacant seat and then the fellow you were interested in, who had been waiting for you to get settled, would come in and join you. After the movie, the route home might include a walk around the lake.

On one of the first warm spring Sundays, a group of us would go into D.C., which meant riding on the Capital Transit bus and streetcar. We would tour the monuments and have a hot dog on the Mall. I can't remember a single incident that ever made me feel uncomfortable. Those were the days!

When it got really hot, the folks would take me to one of the bay beaches for the day. What a journey that was! We left at the same time as everyone else. That meant it was bumper to bumper on a two-lane road for the whole trip. Mom had made a picnic lunch, we took a quick dip and then the trip home took up what was left of the day.

At the end of summer there was the Labor Day celebration and then back to school and everything started all over again.

We grew up in a town where everyone had a new home and all the furniture that they needed for a reasonable price. All the fathers had jobs and with the same income. Most of the moms stayed home and their jobs were taking care of us.

Sounds like something from science fiction? It was a government experiment that succeeded and to those who grew up here it was paradise.

## Volunteer to Be A Host Family

In 2004 people can help the children of New York City by volunteering to be host families for The Fresh Air Fund. Volunteering as a family is a chance to spend time together and to introduce children to volunteering and community service.

Since 1877, New York City children growing up in low-income neighborhoods have experienced the joys of summer in suburban and small-town communities through The Fresh Air Fund's Friendly Town Program. By welcoming visitors into their homes during the summer, host families give Fresh Air children a break from the sometimes dangerous, hot and crowded city streets.

For more information on hosting a Fresh Air child, call Frances James at 301-808-1402 or The Fresh Air Fund at 1-800-367-0003 or visit the fund's website at [www.freshair.org](http://www.freshair.org).

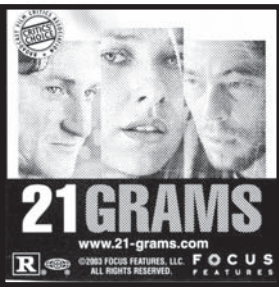
## Holiday Walks

The Freestate Happy Wanderers are holding non-competitive 5K and 10K walks on December 31 and January 1. These walks will start at the Owen Brown Community Center in Columbia. Participants can start anytime between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and finish the walks by 4 p.m. For a free brochure and information contact 301-490-5850 before 9 p.m. or [wahasse@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wahasse@ix.netcom.com). Information can also be gathered from the website at [www.ava.org/clubs/freestate](http://www.ava.org/clubs/freestate).

## Holiday Deadlines

The deadline for the January 1, 2004 issue will be Sunday, December 28. All articles, photos, ads and other copy must be submitted by 10 p.m. Sunday, earlier if possible. The paper will be complete except for final proofreading on Monday. It will be too late to add content for the January 1 issue after Sunday, December 28.

We wish all our readers a very happy New Year!



## OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

Week of Dec. 26

21 Grams (R)

Friday-Tuesday  
\*1:45, \*4:30, 7:15, 9:45

Wednesday  
\*1:45, \*4:30, 7:15

Thursday  
\*1:45, \*4:30, 7:15, 9:45

\*These shows at \$5.00

301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745  
129 Centerway  
[www.pgtheatres.com](http://www.pgtheatres.com)



PHOTO BY LINDA SIADYS

Santa and Miss Greenbelt Danyelle Thomas pose for a photo at the Youth Center on December 12 when Santa made a special visit to the children of Greenbelt.

Videos

**GREENBELT VIDEO** DVDs

301-441-9446

114 Centerway, Roosevelt Center  
Mon-Fri 3-9pm Sat 11am-9pm Sun 12-6pm

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The Greenbelt News Review wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season. A special thank you also is extended to the volunteers and advertisers who make it possible to publish the newspaper each week.

## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Diane Oberg, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Judy Bell, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Eileen Farnham, Marat Moore and Pat Davis.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.



# Community Events

## Jazz at New Deal On New Year's Eve

by Eileen Peterson

At 9 p.m. on December 31 the New Deal Café will become a Greenbelt New Year 2004 venue and provide live jazz music (and a raffle) for its wrist-banded patrons until 12:30 a.m.

John Guernsey (piano), Herb Nachmann (bass) and Eric Hock (drums) will entertain with a variety of jazz tunes, including some of the pianist's own. Guernsey's CD, "The One Step," is named after the legendary One Step Down Jazz Club in Washington, D.C., where he played for many years.

### Menu Changes

The regular Café menu will be available to patrons until 8:30 p.m. that night. Those staying (or coming at 9 p.m.) for the live show will be offered a limited menu. As part of the Greenbelt New Year 2004, the Café will not serve alcohol after 9 p.m.

### Wristband Required

At 9 p.m. all patrons in the Café must have a NY 2004 wristband (purchased in advance at the Community Center, Café or Co-op or at the Café door that night). Tickets for the raffle (a digital camera, stained glass and other items) on sale now will be sold until 11 p.m. The concert is co-sponsored by the Friends of New Deal Café Arts.



Sketch of John Guernsey

## Anyone Want To Split Wood?

Greenbelt Park has service projects available for Scouts and other groups or companies for service projects such as clean-up projects and splitting wood.

Greenbelt Park's entrance is located between Kenilworth Avenue and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway at 6565 Greenbelt Road.

For more information call Park Ranger Kevin P. Barry at 301-344-3944.

## Attend Space Chat, View Mars Landing

Goddard Space Flight Center will host another in its series of "Space Chats," a free interactive presentation for the public, on January 3 at 7:30 p.m. This chat will focus on the Mars Exploration Rover Landings occurring in January. Although the event at the Goddard Visitor Center is free, attendees must register.

For information or to register, log on to [www.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov) and click on "Space Chats" or call 301-286-8102. The program will conclude with NASA-TV coverage of the landing to begin at 11 p.m.

## Babysitting Course Offered by CARES

Greenbelt CARES will offer the winter session of the free babysitting course on Tuesday morning, December 30. The course will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the conference room of the Municipal Building at 25 Crescent Road. The course is free. Each student will receive a packet of materials to bring home. The course is targeted to teach students completing grades 5-8 the safety and responsibility issues of babysitting.

Parents and students wanting additional information and enrollment should call Greenbelt CARES Youth and Family Services Bureau at 301-345-6660, ext. 2016.

## Art Sale Extended At New Deal Café

Artists can hang their art work at the New Deal Café this month – and the show is being held over through January. OK, so it may not be the Smithsonian, but people do buy art work here and the New Deal is Greenbelt's neighborhood café. Last week the café received 19 pieces of art, but there must be more than 19 artists living in Greenbelt. So bring one piece of art work, no larger than 16" by 20", to the café this Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m. The goal of the show is to give Greenbelt artists an opportunity to make a holiday sale. This is a good time of year to find a home for that masterpiece that's being saved for the perfect owner. Call Barbara Simon at 301-474-2192.

## Student Animation Showcase

On New Year's Eve the "Student Animation Showcase" will play at the Old Greenbelt Theatre in Roosevelt Center at 10:15 p.m. This show, which premiered earlier this month, features original animation created by area filmmakers. The program is suitable for all ages.

Although this screening is part of the Greenbelt New Year Celebration, it is a free event and wristbands are not required. The program runs until about 11:30 p.m. and viewers may enter at any time after 10:15.

The event is produced by the GAVA/GATE Animation Program and is sponsored by the Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts, Greenbelt Access Television and ASIFA Washington. Funding was provided by the City of Greenbelt, Greenbelt Foundation for the Arts, Prince George's Arts Council and Prince George's County. For further information call 301-474-2192.

## New Year's Eve Volunteers Meet

Volunteers providing supervision and security at the Community Center for this year's celebration will meet on Tuesday, December 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center to review policies and procedures. To volunteer and receive free admission and an "Event Staff" T-shirt, call Dan Hamlin at 301-982-0048.

## Greenbelt CARES

Staff members Teresa Smithson and Kate Carrigan completed the Social Skills Group for seventh and eighth graders at Greenbelt Middle School. The groups met once a week for eight weeks. Next week, participating members will be treated to a pizza party.

Wendy Wexler also completed an eight-week Teen Discussion Group at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. During the eight weeks, students discussed a wide variety of issues including school performance and attendance, family relationships, social skills and decision-making. Wexler will be interviewing students for a new group to begin right after the New Year.

# Families and Friends Will Party at New Year Bash

by Patti Brothers

There are only a few days to solidify last-minute New Year's Eve plans. Those who haven't already made plans for bringing in the new year are invited to join their friends and neighbors at Greenbelt New Year 2004.

The evening's activities begin at 7 p.m. at five different locations. The Community Center will host the great rhythm and sounds of Trinidad and Tobago – wear your island apparel. Blue Sky Puppets will delight the audience with wonderful "let your imagination take you away" puppet shows. Don Bridges will be singing great folk and "family" tunes following the puppet shows. Magic Mike will delight both children and adults with his mystical magic and phenomenal balloon sculpturing skills. The children's craft room, run by resident artists, will be open once again for a night full of creativity. For those who feel like dancing, the St. Columba's Scottish Dancers will have everyone up on their feet dancing and lessons will be provided. John Hill will provide the party goes with a full night of music from his acoustic guitar and wonderful voice. The Goddard Storytellers will tell exciting, let-your-imagination-take-you-away stories for both kids and adults. And get your "once in a lifetime" hairstyle – both artful and fun – in the Wacky Hair Salon. DC Motors will begin the final celebration and ring in the New Year in fine style with their great non-stop sounds that span the last four decades.

The Youth Center will have lots of "get involved" activities



for everyone: a huge Twister game (can you get your body to stretch that far and that way?); a brand new, challenging obstacle course, "The Adrenalin Wall" (try to out run your neighbor), both provided by Talk of the Town; and a karaoke DJ provided by Sight and Sound Entertainment who will play great music all night long for listening and/or for singing.

The Arts Center will be filled with music all night long. Adrenaline will play their great sounds to start off the evening and the band "Something Completely Different" will perform after "Adrenaline," playing their rockin' sounds up until shortly before midnight.

During the latter part of the evening, the movie theater will be the setting for animated short films by GAVA.

The New Deal Café will open at 9 p.m. and will host "The John Guernsey Jazz Group." Come on in for a bite to eat and some great sounds.

Food will be plentiful for the entire evening with great desserts by Chef Lou and delicious edibles provided by the Swim Team in the Community Center, pizza and snacks in the Youth Center, and items from the New Deal's great menu. Don't eat at home – eat at the celebration.

Discount tickets are available at the Greenbelt Co-op Office until noon on December 31 and the Community Center Office through December 30. Children under five are free. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

Don't miss Greenbelt New Year 2004 – a fun time will be had by all!

## GREENBELT MUSEUM

Looking for a worthy year-end tax deduction?  
Give now and your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar through a challenge grant from the NEH.  
We can't make the challenge without lots of supporters!

Please make checks payable to FOGM  
Please include "NEH challenge" in the memo line.  
Send checks to Friends of the Greenbelt Museum  
P.O. Box 1025  
Greenbelt, MD 20770



*During this Holiday Season  
and in the New Year  
The Board of Directors and Staff  
of Greenbelt Homes, Inc.  
Wishes its members and the greater  
Greenbelt community  
The Light of Faith  
The Warmth of Home  
The Love of Family and Friends  
and  
World Peace for All*

★ Season's Greetings ★  
To All ★  
★ The Greenbelt ★  
Golden Age Club

Season's Greetings!  
Windsor Green HOA



## M-NCPPC Receives Vision Awards

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) was recognized as a leader in growth management planning by Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. during an October 3 ceremony to announce winners of Maryland's 2003 Vision Award for Smart Growth.

The Vision Awards program, now in its ninth year, honors outstanding projects, initiatives, businesses, governments and individuals across the State that implement and embody smart growth principles. Awardees are selected in one of seven categories, including Government Innovation, Business and Economic Development and Public Education and Outreach.

The M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Department received two of this year's 15 State-wide Vision Awards: In the category of Public School Construction/Renovation for planning and site selection for the new Samuel P. Massie Elementary/Suitland Community Park School Center, a state-of-the-art educational and community facility constructed within an existing neighborhood. In the category of Public Education & Outreach for "PlanningDotCom," an innovative series of community workshops offering information on planning and development in Prince George's County, a catalogue of services and materials available to the public and tips on how to become involved in the planning process.

"The Commission is honored and delighted to receive such prestigious recognition for our leadership in smart growth planning and community outreach," said M-NCPPC Prince George's County Planning Board Chairman Elizabeth M. Hewlett. "These Vision Awards for Smart Growth not only recognize our efforts to promote quality development and to encourage the growth of livable, attractive and vibrant communities in our older neighborhoods, but also reinforce our commitment to continuing to provide first-class planning services for our citizens and residents."

### Baha'i Faith

Greenbelt Baha'i Community  
P.O. Box 245  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-345-2918 301-220-3160


[www.bahai.org/](http://www.bahai.org/)

### Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road,  
Beltsville/Adelphi (301-937-3666)  
*Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community*

December 28, 10 a.m.  
"Visions of Heaven, Visions of Love"  
by Tish Hall and Maria Day  
with Nancy Boardman,  
worship associate

Barbara Wells,  
Jaco B. ten Hove,  
co-ministers

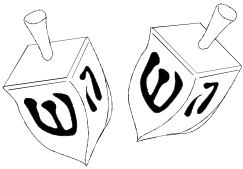


### Catholic Community of Greenbelt

**MASS**  
Sundays 10 A.M.  
Municipal Building



On Sunday, December 21, members of Mishkan Torah and their families gathered to worship and celebrate the second day of the Jewish holiday. Above, Eli Marsh wraps a Christmas gift for a family in need. At right, Lisa Marsh, right, assists younger members of the synagogue at the craft table. Dreidel-making and "Jewish Jeopardy" were also part of the activities at the Hanukkah party.



PHOTOS BY LINDA SIADYS

## Celebrating Hanukkah At Mishkan Torah

Hanukkah marks the successful revolt by Jews against Hellenistic Greeks, who had desecrated their temples. According to Rabbi Jonathan Cohen of Mishkan Torah, it is a midwinter festival that coincides with the end of the Hebrew month, when both sunlight and moonlight reach their lowest ebb. He says, "It is an act of faith that when we have the least amount of natural light, we make our own." The lighting of the eight-candle menorah – one for each day of the eight-day holiday – symbolizes the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem and "the celebration of the right to be yourself and stand up against the powers that be."



### Congregation Mishkan Torah

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770, 301-474-4223  
Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield  
A warm, comfortable and involved congregation  
Creative nursery school for two to four year olds  
Pre-K to post-confirmation education program  
First year school FREE for one child  
Reconstructionist/Conservative affiliation  
[www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Services: Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m.  
Family, 7:30 first Friday of the month

### GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org) [greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net](mailto:greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net)  
Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor

Sun. Worship 8:35 am, 11:00 am  
Wed. Praise and Prayer 7:00 pm  
Wed. Living Proof, Youth Event 7:00 pm

*"Building Bridges to the Family of God thru the Love of Christ"*



### HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Worship
	8:45 a.m.	Fellowship
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Evening Worship

  
Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail [myholycross@erols.com](mailto:myholycross@erols.com)

"Open Door, Open Heart, Open Mind!"

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
301-474-9410  
SUNDAY

Sunday School	9:45 am
Talk & Listen (Coffee Hr.)	10:15 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Tues. Lectionary Study	7:00 am
Wed. Prayer Meeting	7:00 pm
Third Friday, Games Night	7:30 pm

**Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor**  
Dec. 28, 1st Sunday after Christmas Day  
Sermon Title: Divine and Human Favor  
New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 – Covenant Renewal Service 7:30 p.m.  
New Year's Day Service 12:00 Noon

### MASS SCHEDULE:

Sunday 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.  
Saturday 5 p.m.  
Daily Mass: As announced  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.  
Rev. Thomas F. Crowley, Pastor  
Rev. R. Scott Hurd, Pastoral Associate  
Part Time Ministry

### ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH


135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Md.

### Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hillside & Crescent Roads  
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings  
[www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/](http://www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/)  
**Sunday Worship**  
**10:15 a.m.**  
Daniel Hamlin, Pastor


*"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."*



### St. George's Episcopal/Anglican Church

7010 Glenn Dale Road  
Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)  
301-262-3285 | [rector@stgeo.org](mailto:rector@stgeo.org) | [www.stgeo.org](http://www.stgeo.org)

Sundays:	8:00 am	Simple, Quiet Mass
	9:00 am	Christian Education for All Ages
	10:00 am	Sung Mass with Organ and Folk Music, ASL interpreted
	1:30 pm	Signed Mass (last Sunday of each month only)
Wednesdays:	7:00 pm	Simple, Quiet Mass



### Did you know?

The Muslims have a whole chapter in the Holy Book entitled "Mary" that describes the miracle of Jesus' birth.

"Behold! The angels said: 'O Mary! God has chosen thee and purified thee and chosen thee above the women of all nations'." –The Holy Quran, 3:42

For more information on what Islam says about Mary and Jesus, call 301-982-9463 or e-mail us at [muslimguide@hotmail.com](mailto:muslimguide@hotmail.com) or visit the website [www.islam-guide.com](http://www.islam-guide.com).



City Notes

During the week of December 19, the horticulture crew removed an accident-damaged tree on Hanover Parkway, pruned dead and hazardous branches from trees in Greenbelt East and prepared the plants in the nursery for the winter.

The parks crew made signs for Christmas tree drop-off locations, made two benches for the playground near St. Hugh's School and continued leaf collection.

The streets crew continued to flag for the construction crew working on Hanover Parkway, repaired potholes and assisted with set-up and clean-up for the employee party.

The facilities maintenance crew inspected fire alarms at the Police Station and the Aquatic and Fitness Center, ran new phone lines and installed brackets for new equipment at Springhill Lake Recreation Cen-

ter and supervised the contractor who installed replacement windows in the lounge of the city office building.

**Happy  
Holidays  
and  
Season's  
Greetings**

**Mobil®**  
GREENBELT SERVICE  
CENTER

HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS  
&  
SEASON'S  
GREETINGS

From  
Greenbelt Auto & Truck

Holiday Greetings to All of Our Readers





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WISHING YOU AND YOURS  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!  
*From the McCarl Dental Family*



# Get into the Arts

## Artful Afternoon: Dancing, Singing, Puppets and Parade Add to Celebration

Two exciting new elements have been added to the schedule for the Recreation Department’s January 4 Artful Afternoon. These elements, designed primarily for adults, will complement other activities to engage the youngest citizens, age four and up. All of the day’s programs are free and open to the general public. No advance registration is required.

Two Recreation Department instructors will be on hand to introduce guests to performing arts opportunities at the Community Center. From 2 to 4 p.m. Recreation Department ballroom dance instructor Francis Solomon will demonstrate a variety of fun and elegant social dances.

From 2:30 to 4 p.m. Greenbelt musician and Recreation Department voice instructor Izolda will lead a “community sing.”

Participants will learn some basic techniques to connect body, breath and voice. Guests can then put these techniques into practice by joining in a joyful group sing-along. Everyone with and without experience is welcome to participate in both workshops. Izolda and Solomon will offer classes at the Community Center during the winter

session beginning in early January.

### Children’s Events

With all the human New Year revelers returned home to rest, it’s time for the animals to come out and celebrate! On Sunday, January 4 children ages four and up are invited to the Greenbelt Community Center for an international New Year arts party introducing traditions from China and other countries. Guests will celebrate through story, song and a parade of animal puppets which the children will make with guest artist Sondra Holland.

Holland is a pianist, painter and professional music and arts educator who recently moved to Greenbelt from New York state. Her workshop will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. If possible, bring a white sock to transform into a puppet and an instrument for the parade through the Community Center. Instruments might include kazooes, tambourines, bells of any kind, metal spoons, pot lids, harmonicas or anything else that makes noise!

This activity is offered in conjunction with the monthly Artful Afternoon program presented by the Greenbelt Recreation Department. Artful After-

noons take place on the first Sunday of the month from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. Additional activities planned for January 4 include a painting demonstration from 1 to 3 p.m. with landscape artist Dan Kennedy, who has a studio at the Community Center. Kennedy will demonstrate techniques of composition that observers may apply to their own photography, painting or other artistic pursuits.

From 1 to 5 p.m. the Community Center’s Artists in Residence will welcome visitors of all ages to a studio open house.

Two exhibits will be open for viewing, including the group show “Art Exchange” and a Greenbelt Museum presentation of the editorial cartoons of Isadore “Izzy” Parker. The Museum will also offer guided tours of the historic home located at 10-B Crescent Road.

All Artful Afternoon activities are free and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact John Norden, arts assistant at 301-397-2208 or [jnorden@ci-greenbelt.md.us](mailto:jnorden@ci-greenbelt.md.us).



## Golden Agers Enjoy Music of Marvin Hamlisch



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAMBERT

Members of the Greenbelt Golden Age Club attended a National Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops Concert on December 10 at the Kennedy Center. Following the performance, the Golden Agers also attended a reception with conductor and famous composer Marvin Hamlisch. The oldest person in attendance, Florence Holly, 94, was asked by Ham-

lisch to request a song for him to play on the piano. Holly named “My Old Kentucky Home,” not one of Hamlisch’s many songs. However, Hamlisch played it and made it his song with original lyrics that mentioned historic Greenbelt and interspersed the tune with some of his original melodies. Afterward Hamlisch met Holly and joined her for photographs.

### Gypsy Strings Will Perform Concert

The Gypsy Strings, frequent guest performers at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, will give a free holiday performance there on December 28 at 1:30 p.m. The center is located at 3900 Harewood Road, N.E., Washington, D.C.

The Museums at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center are open Tuesday through Sunday. Admission and parking are free. Donations are accepted. For more information call 202-635-5400 or visit [www.jp2cc.org](http://www.jp2cc.org).

### Little Theatre Holds Auditions for Play

The Prince George’s Little Theatre will hold auditions for “Red Herring.” Three women and three men or more will be cast. Those auditioning should be prepared to do cold readings from script.

Auditions will be held January 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway, New Carrollton.

For more information call Ellyn Kestnbaum, director, at 202-237-6519.

## Learn to Sing and Dance In the Community Center

by Chris Cherry

For Greenbelters who make a New Year’s resolution to learn to sing or dance or just to enjoy themselves more in 2004, the Greenbelt Community Center is offering new classes with two outstanding Greenbelt-based teaching artists. Folk Nouveau singer-songwriter Izolda will be offering her very popular “Learn to Sing” classes and champion ballroom dancer Francis Solomon will teach three different ballroom dancing classes. Both artists will be on hand for the January 4 Artful Afternoon at the Community Center, providing free workshops for aspiring singers and dancers.

### Izolda

Singer-songwriter Izolda is familiar to many Greenbelters from her CD “Sound The Deep Waters,” her appearances at the New Deal Café and her classes. Her own music is a fusion of jazz, classical and folk, with Eastern European and Middle-Eastern influences. Born in Moldova in the former Soviet Union, Izolda began studying classical violin at the age of five. She later added recorder and guitar to her instrumental repertoire. She has sung with the a capella trio Fleur-de-Lis, the folk ensemble Kiva and singer Gina DeSimone. “I believe in the transformative and magical power of music,” Izolda says “and I strive to bring that across in both my lyrics and my melodies.”

Students in her classes say they experience that magical power firsthand. Izolda’s beginners’ class requires no singing experience. The class provides a relaxed atmosphere where students

can focus on development of the singing voice, confidence and joy in singing. Both the beginners and the advanced beginners’ courses culminate in a recital at the New Deal Café. The singing classes are scheduled for Wednesday evenings in the Community Center.

### Francis Solomon

Francis Solomon was the 1973 U.S. champion in the Rising Stars division of the World Ballroom Dance Championship in Blackpool, England, in both Latin and standard categories. Locally, he has been an instructor at the NASA Goddard Ballroom Dance Club, dance director of the College Park Ballroom Dance Club and the Jewish Ballroom Dance Club. He is currently the resident dance instructor of the Johns Hopkins Ballroom Dance Club.

Solomon is excited about teaching in Greenbelt where his young sons are enthusiastic participants in the Greenbelt Recreation Department’s summer camps. The dancing classes will be held on Monday evenings in the Community Center. Three different classes will focus on standard ballroom (foxtrot, waltz and tango); Latin (rumba, cha-cha and samba) and nightclub (Argentine tango).

Registration for all classes is open now. The dance classes begin on January 5 and the singing classes begin on January 7. Prospective students can stop by the Community Center’s Artful Afternoon on Sunday, January 4 at 2 p.m. to meet the teachers and participate in free workshops. For information, call 301-397-2208.

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEW YEAR'S EVE?



Join your friends and neighbors at the best New Year’s Eve party ever, right here in your own hometown! The party starts at 7:00 p.m. and ends after midnight. Kids under 5 are admitted free! It’s a fun, alcohol-free celebration for all ages, with:

- D.C. MOTORS TOP 40 BAND ★ TRINIDAD & TOBAGO STEEL BAND ★ JOHN HILL
- MAGIC BY MAGIC MIKE ★ THE JOHN GUERNSEY JAZZ GROUP
- GAVA/GATE ANIMATION SHOW ★ SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS
- BLUE SKY PUPPETS ★ DON BRIDGES SONGS FOR KIDS
- GODDARD STORYTELLERS ★ WACKY HAIR SALON
- CHILDREN’S NEW YEAR CRAFTS ★ DJ AND GAMES FOR TEENS
- ADRENALINE & SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ROCK BANDS

**\$5 ADVANCE TICKETS ON SALE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND YOUTH CENTER (Mon-Fri 8:30am to 4:30pm) AND AT GREENBELT CO-OP SUPERMARKET (Mon-Sat 9:00am to 9:00pm; Sun 9:00am to 6:00pm) CALL 301-397-2208 FOR INFORMATION**

The celebration takes place in the heart of town at the following venues:  
Greenbelt Community Center • Greenbelt Youth Center • Greenbelt Arts Center  
Greenbelt Movie Theater • New Deal Cafe

## GREENBELT NEW YEAR 2004

Hosted by the City of Greenbelt and the Greenbelt New Year Committee



## SENIORS continued from page 1

give a brief summary of his company’s report on the city’s Assistance in Living Program Needs Assessment. Sukol contracted with the city to survey senior residents about issues that would help them “age in place,” or remain in their own homes as long as possible. Councilmembers have the report and copies will also be given to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Friends of the Resource Advocate and the NORC Supportive Services Center, which provided funding for the survey.

It so happened that December 15 was Sukol’s birthday. He told council he wanted to “do my part to contribute to aging.”

Sukol briefly described his company’s survey methods. He said that nearly 150 seniors were interviewed extensively and several hundred others were given shorter surveys. The five main issues found from the surveys were transportation, health care, home safety and maintenance, access to information and finances, he said.

After the survey results were compiled, a panel of experts were asked what action the city should take to provide for the discovered needs of seniors. Some results were surprising, said Sukol, such as the lack of awareness about information already available to people.

Probably no surprise to Greenbelters was Sukol’s response to Councilmember Konrad Herling’s question regarding whether the surveys discovered anything that distinguished Greenbelt from other areas. Sukol answered that Greenbelt seems to have a sense of community and neighborhood belonging that is “very uncommon elsewhere.” He also said his surveyors noticed a lot of willingness to help, noting that in his opinion one of the most difficult solutions is organizing people in a community to help each other.

Davis spoke about GIVES, Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service, which

serves in just this way. She said she is often surprised that people do not know about GIVES. Sukol agreed that GIVES could play a role in actions the city may take in response to the survey.

A worksession where council will have a more intensive review of the report has been scheduled for January 21.

## TRAFFIC continued from page 1

ing more clearly defined pedestrian spaces. After these markings are in place, we can evaluate the efficacy of the approach in terms of speed reduction, as well as possible displaced traffic impacts on adjacent roads.” Later, a capital project could be considered to address traffic calming, pedestrian safety and streetscape improvements.

### Guard Rail

The State Highway District Engineer has been requested by the police to consider adding a guard rail next to a wooded area that is below street grade on the north side of Greenbelt Road east of the Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Several accidents have occurred there with cars leaving the roadway and crashing into the wooded area. Last year, one vehicle crashed into a telephone pole in this area resulting in a fatality. Police also noted a sidewalk in this area is dangerously close to the roadway.

### Standing Water

The State Highway Administration District Engineer has also been advised of a standing water problem on the south side of Greenbelt Road near the new CVS store. The problem was first referred to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission which advised that the cause was surface water and not the result of a water main leak. Police are concerned that the area will become unsafe in freezing weather.



# City Information

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on  
Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, for the New Year’s Holiday.  
The Greenbelt Connection will not be operating.

## REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

### Week of December 29<sup>th</sup>

Monday Route–Regular Schedule  
Tuesday Route–Regular Schedule  
Wednesday Route–Regular Schedule  
Thursday Route–Refuse and Recycling collected Friday

There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday,  
January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**OPENINGS ON  
BOARDS &  
COMMITTEES**  
*Volunteer to serve on City  
Council advisory groups.  
Vacancies exist on the:  
Advisory Committee on  
Education*

**Park and Recreation  
Advisory Board**

**Arts Advisory Board**

*For more information, please  
call 301-474-8000.*

## Greenbelt New Year

GREENBELT NEW YEAR:  
Tickets are now available at  
the Co-op, Greenbelt Community  
Center and the Youth  
Center. Ring in the New  
Year Greenbelt Style with  
this fun, multi-venue family  
event.

*Please visit  
[www.ci.greenbelt.md.us](http://www.ci.greenbelt.md.us) or  
call 301-397-2200 for more  
information.*

The Senior Citizens  
Needs Assessment  
Study is now posted  
at  
[www.ci.greenbelt.md.us](http://www.ci.greenbelt.md.us)

## GREENBELT CARES BABYSITTING COURSE Tuesday, December 30th from 10am-1pm Municipal Building-1st Floor Conference Room



This free course is targeted toward students completing grades 5-8. Students will learn responsibility and health and safety issues of taking care of children, as well as learning about poison control and fire prevention. Students completing the course will receive a certificate and be eligible to participate in the Greenbelt CARES ODD JOBS/JOB BANK program.

**Info/Enrollment: 301-345-6660, ext 144  
[Jhering@ci.greenbelt.md.us](mailto:Jhering@ci.greenbelt.md.us)**

## GREENBELT MUNICIPAL/PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 71

**MUNICIPAL ACCESS 301-474-8000: Tuesday & Thursday, December 30 & January 1:**  
**6:00pm** “Santa in Greenbelt”  
**6:15pm** “Holiday Tree Lighting”  
**7:00pm** “Your Board at Work-Landis, Tignor and Stone”

**PUBLIC ACCESS: 301-507-6581 Wednesday & Friday, December 24 & 26: 7:00pm**  
“Student Animations 2003”  
**9:00pm** Greenbelt Arts Center presents “Bridgette L. Cooper”

## An Artful Afternoon

**Sunday, January 4 from 1-5pm at the Greenbelt Community Center**

Enjoy this free mini arts festival featuring a studio open house, art exhibits, projects, Greenbelt Museum tours, etc.

**NEW YEAR PARADE OF THE ANIMALS!** Children ages 4 and up, accompanied by an adult, will enjoy an international New Year arts party. Celebrate with story, song, and a parade of puppets created in a workshop with Sondra Holland, 1-3pm. Bring a white sock to create your puppet, and a musical instrument for the parade. Instruments may include kazoos, drums, metal spoons, bells, or anything that makes noise!

**PAINTING DEMONSTRATION** with landscape artist Dan Kennedy, 1-3pm. Learn tips about composition which you can apply to your own photography or other artwork.

**BALLROOM DANCE** Recreation Department ballroom dance instructor Francis Solomon will demonstrate a variety of fun and elegant social dances from 2-4pm.

**COMMUNITY SING** Greenbelt musician and Recreation Department voice instructor Izolda will lead a "community sing" from 2:30-4pm. Participants will learn some basic techniques to connect body, breath, and voice. Guests can then put these techniques into practice by joining in a joyful group sing-along. Individuals with and without experience are welcome to participate in both these workshops. Izolda and Solomon are offering classes at the Community Center during the winter session beginning in early January.



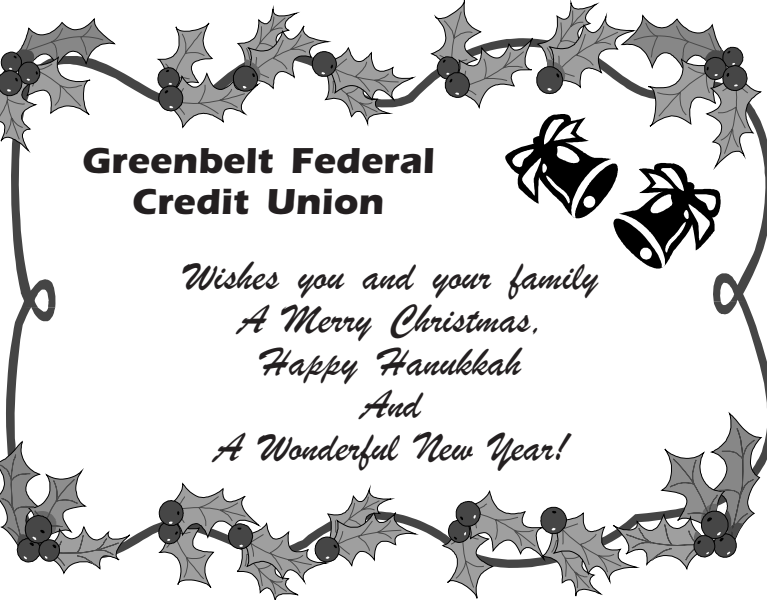
## New Year's Eve Jazz at the New Deal Café

Roosevelt Center


**John Guernsey at the Piano from 9:00 PM-12:30 AM  
with Eric Hock on drums & Herb Nachmann on bass**

Light refreshments available  
Raffle drawing for digital camera & other items

This event is part of Greenbelt New Year 2004 Celebration  
& wristbands are required.  
Wristbands may be purchased at door all night



## Greenbelt Federal Credit Union



*Wishes you and your family  
A Merry Christmas,  
Happy Hanukkah  
And  
A Wonderful New Year!*



DECEMBER/JANUARY 2004

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	
4						

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Dec. 29th thru Jan. 4th



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Sunday 10 a.m. til 6 p.m.  
301-474-0522

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301-474-4400

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U.S.D.A. Choice Beef Boneless Sirloin Steak <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> lb.	Fresh Lean Boneless Pork Loin Chops <b>\$2<sup>59</sup></b> lb.
Fresh Lean Boneless Pork Country Ribs <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> lb.	Fresh Silver Floss Sauerkraut <b>99¢</b> 2 lb.
Fresh 80% Lean Ground Chuck <b>\$1<sup>89</sup></b> lb.	Lloyd's Cooked Barbecues <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> 20 oz.
Fresh Lean Boneless Pork Shoulder Picnic <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> lb.	Kunzler Grill Franks <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> 16 oz.
Hatfield Flavored Ham Steaks <b>\$1<sup>79</sup></b> 8 oz.	Armour Brown & Serve Sausages <b>99¢</b> 7 oz.

### DAIRY

Minute Maid Orange Juice <b>\$1<sup>89</sup></b> 64 oz.
Shedd's Country Crock Soft Vegetable Spread <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b> 48 oz.
Kraft Original Individually Wrapped American Singles <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b> 12 oz.
Shurfine Cream Cheese <b>79¢</b> 8 oz. Block

### DELI

Delicatessen Roast Beef <b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b> lb.
Hatfield Roast Pork <b>\$5<sup>89</sup></b> lb.
Wunderbar German Bologna <b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b> lb.
Shurfine Pepper Jack Cheese <b>\$5<sup>49</sup></b> lb.

### HOT FOODS DELI

Delicious Rotisserie Chicken <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> Each
---

### BAKERY

Tasty Mini Cupcakes <b>\$3<sup>49</sup></b> 12 Pk.
--

### SEAFOOD

Fresh Atlantic Salmon Fillets <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> lb.
Ready-To-Eat Smoked Whiting <b>\$3<sup>49</sup></b> lb.
Censea Cooked Salad Shrimp <b>\$4<sup>69</sup></b> 16 oz.

### GROCERY BARGAINS

Betty Crocker Hamburger Helper Chicken Helper Tuna Helper All Varieties 5-9 oz <b>99¢</b>	<b>SPECIAL</b> New Years Holiday Hours Open New Year's Eve 8am-til-7pm OPEN New Years Day 10am-til-6pm <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>	Campbell's Select Soups Assorted Varieties 18-19 oz. <b>99¢</b>
San Giorgio Spaghetti Regular-Thin <b>49¢</b> 1 lb.	Kraft Family Size Salad Dressings <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b> 16 oz.	Bumble Bee Chunk Light Tuna <b>49¢</b> 6 oz.
Ragu Family Style Spaghetti Sauce <b>\$1<sup>79</sup></b> 45 oz.	Mott's Apple Sauce <b>89¢</b> 23-24 oz.	Vista Saltine Crackers <b>69¢</b> 16 oz.
Folger's Regular Ground Coffee <b>\$1<sup>39</sup></b> Classic-Colombian-French-Breakfast Blend-All Purpose-Gourmet 11-13 oz. Can	Kraft Miracle Whip Original-Light <b>\$1<sup>59</sup></b> 32 oz.	Tide Value Size Liquid Laundry Detergent <b>\$5<sup>89</sup></b> 100 oz.
Shurfine Soda Assorted Varieties <b>6/99¢</b> 12 oz. Can	Honey Nut Family Size Cheerios Cereal <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> 27 oz.	Silver Floss Sauerkraut <b>79¢</b> 27 oz.
Dawn Ultra Liquid Dish Detergent <b>\$1<sup>89</sup></b> 25 oz.	Schmidt's Potato Sandwich-or-Long Rolls <b>\$1<sup>19</sup></b> 15 oz.	Swiss Miss Cocoa Mix <b>99¢</b> 6 Pk.
Utz Pretzels Asst. Varieties <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> 14 oz.	Betty Crocker Bowl Appetit Sidedishes Assorted Varieties <b>89¢</b> 2-3 oz.	Del Monte Stewed-or-Diced Tomatoes Asst. Varieties <b>69¢</b> 14 oz.
Shurfine Peaches-Pears-Fruit Cocktail-Apricots <b>69¢</b> 15 oz.	Tropicana Twister Fruit Drink Blends Assorted Varieties <b>\$1<sup>69</sup></b> 59 oz.	Shurfine Vegetable Oils <b>\$1<sup>39</sup></b> 48 oz.

### HEALTH & BEAUTY

Ivory Personal Size Bar Soap 3 Pk. <b>69¢</b>	Best Yet Aspirin Tablets <b>99¢</b> 200 Pk.	Nabisco Ritz Crackers Asst. Varieties <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b> 14-16 oz.
Nabisco Snack Crackers Triscuits-Thins-Better Cheddars-Sociables-Crisps-Asst. Varieties 7-10 oz. <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b>	Vick's Formula-44 Cough Medicine <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> 4 oz.	San Giorgio Elbow Macaroni-Vermicelli-Ziti <b>49¢</b> 1 lb.
V-8 Original Vegetable Juice <b>\$1<sup>39</sup></b> 46 oz. Can	Shurfine Indoor Disposable Camera <b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b> Each	Tostitos Corn Chips <b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b> 11-13 oz.
Green Pearl Manzanilla Stuffed Olives <b>69¢</b> 6 oz.	Shellzone Auto Antifreeze <b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b> Gallon	Shurfine Family Size Ketchup <b>99¢</b> 36 oz.

### HOUSEWARES

### FARM FRESH PRODUCE

Sunkist Navel Oranges <b>3/\$1<sup>00</sup></b> 56 Size	Premium Celery Hearts <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> 16 oz. Bag
Hass Avocado <b>99¢</b> Each	Fresh Express Salads Assorted Varieties <b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b> 10-12 oz.
Choice Lemons <b>4/99¢</b>	Fresh & Clean Sliced Mushrooms <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> 8 oz.
Organic Anjou Pears <b>99¢</b> lb.	Jumbo Spanish Onions <b>49¢</b> lb.
Fresh Carrot Juice <b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b> 1 Liter	Cello Premium Radishes <b>49¢</b> 6 oz.

### FROZEN FOOD

Banquet Boneless Chicken Nuggets-Tenders-Patties 12-16 oz. <b>\$1<sup>89</sup></b>
Totino's Party Pizza Asst. Varieties <b>99¢</b> 9-11 oz.
Hanover Broccoli Florets-Baby Limas-Whole Green Beans <b>99¢</b> 16 oz.
Stouffer's Original Macaroni & Cheese <b>99¢</b> 12 oz.

### BEER & WINE

Sierra Nevada Pale Ale <b>\$7<sup>69</sup></b> 6 Pack-12 oz. N.R.'s
Tosti Asti Spumante <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ML.
Lite Beer <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b> 12 Pack-12 oz. N.R.'s
Taylor Champagne <b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ML.

### NATURALS

Giovanni Organic Hair Conditioner-Mousse-Fusion <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> 7-8 oz.
Santa Cruz Organic Lemonade <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> 32 oz.

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64 oz.  
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**LAND-O-LAKES CHEESE BLOCKS**  
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# POLICE BLOTTER

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Robbery**  
6000 block Springhill Drive, December 14, 11:14 a.m., a woman reported that she was walking home when she was approached from behind by two men who pushed her to the ground and took her wallet. Both fled the scene on foot. They are described as a black male, 15 to 18 years of age, 5'5", 130 pounds, with black hair and a dark complexion, wearing a camouflage jacket and dark pants and a black male, 15 to 18 years of age, 5'7", 140 pounds, with black hair and a dark complexion, wearing dark clothing and a white T-shirt.

9200 block Edmonston Road, December 16, 5:21 p.m., a man reported that he was walking home when he was approached by another man who demanded money from him. A weapon was implied but not displayed. The victim told the suspect that he had no money. The suspect then fled the scene on foot. The suspect is described as a black male, 5'7" with black hair and brown eyes, a medium build and a mole on his forehead, wearing a gray sweatshirt, black pants and a black ski mask.

6100 block Breezewood Court, December 16, 7:54 p.m., a woman reported that she was walking home when she was approached from behind by a man, who grabbed her purse from her shoulder and fled the scene on foot. The woman fell to the ground, but required no medical attention. The suspect is described as a black male, 5'7", 140 pounds, wearing all dark clothing and a ski mask.

**Theft**  
Beltway Plaza Mall, December 14, two nonresident youths were arrested for two counts of theft, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, malicious destruction and driving without a license. One of the youths was also arrested for hit and run. They were in a vehicle that struck an occupied Beltway Plaza security vehicle in the mall parking lot. The youths exited the vehicle and attempted to flee the scene on foot, but both were apprehended. A computer check revealed that the vehicle had been reported stolen to the Fairfax County Police. The youths were released into the custody of the Metro Transit Police Department, as they are suspects in an attempted robbery that occurred earlier the same evening at the Greenbelt Metro Station.

**Burglary**  
6200 block Breezewood Court, December 12, 10:43 a.m., unknown person(s) attempted to enter a residence by prying the door lock and damaging it. Entry was not gained.

6100 Breezewood Drive, December 12, 12:07 p.m., unknown person(s) used unknown means to enter a residence. Clothing, jewelry and personal documents were taken.

7800 block Mandan Road, December 15, 3:33 p.m., unknown person(s) possibly entered the residence by way of an unlocked sliding glass window. Computer equipment, clothing and an elec-

tric drill were taken.  
9300 block Edmonston Road, December 15, 9:50 p.m., unknown person(s) entered a residence by forcing open the sliding glass door. Two DVD players, DVDs, frozen food and jewelry were taken.  
7500 block Mandan Road, December 17, 7:02 p.m., unknown person(s) entered the residence by forcing open a rear door. Money was taken.

**Vandalism**  
6000 block of Springhill Drive, December 15, 8:16 a.m., a Greenbelt youth was arrested for malicious destruction after he allegedly punched out a window in a residence. He was released on citation pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

**Disorderly Conduct**  
Beltway Plaza Mall, December 17, 8:55 a.m., a nonresident man was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. Police responded to a report of a fight at the mall. Upon arriving on the scene they observed the man, a participant in the fight that had been broken up by mall security officers, acting in a disorderly manner. He was shouting profanities and attempting to assault another person. He was arrested and released on citation pending trial. While at the station, it was learned that the suspect had an open warrant with the Prince George's County Sheriff's Department. He was then released to the Department of Corrections for service of the warrant.

**Trespass**  
Beltway Plaza Mall December 12, 5:54 p.m., a nonresident man was arrested and charged with trespass after he was observed inside the mall after he had previously been banned by agents of the property. A computer check revealed that he had an open warrant with the Prince George's County Sheriff's Department. He was released on citation in the custody of the Department of Corrections for service of the warrant.

**Vehicle Crimes**  
The following vehicles were stolen: a 2002 Honda Accord 2-door, December 13, from the 9200 block Springhill Lane, recovered the same day by the Prince George's County Police, two arrests were made; a black 1996 Honda Accord 4-door, Pennsylvania tags EXW3346, December 13, from the 6100 block Breezewood Drive; a black 1999 Mercedes 320 4-door, Maryland tags KLJ160, December 13, from Greenway Center; a green 1994 Ford Thunderbird 2-door, Florida tags H23JVH, December 13, from the 7600 block Mandan Road; a 2003 Mitsubishi Gallant 4-door, December 14, from Beltway Plaza Mall, recovered the same day by the Metropolitan Police, the vehicle had been destroyed by fire, no arrests; a 2000 Jeep Cherokee, December 14, from the 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace, recovered the same day by the Prince George's County Police, no arrests; a black 1993 Toyota Supra 2-door, Maryland tags 630AVV, December 14, from the 8200 block Mandan Court; and a

silver and blue Dodge Stratus 4-door, Maryland tags KZK185, December 18 from the 8200 block Canning Terrace.  
Greenbelt police recovered two vehicles, a 1997 Mercury Marquis and a 2003 Dodge Caravan, no arrests.  
Two vehicles, a 1999 Ford Contour and a 2003 Dodge Caravan, were recovered by other police departments with no arrests.

Vandalisms to, thefts from and attempted thefts of vehicles were reported in the following areas: Beltway Plaza Mall (4 incidents), Greenway Shopping Center (2 incidents), 6900 block Hanover Parkway (4 incidents), 7700 block Hanover Parkway (3 incidents), Mandan Road and Mandan Court, Cherrywood Lane and Cherrywood Court, 5800 block Cherrywood Lane, 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, 6100 block Breezewood Drive, 6200 block Breezewood Drive and 9200 block Springhill Lane.

**Free Gunlocks**  
Free cable-style gunlocks will be distributed throughout Maryland as part of the national Project Childsafe initiative. The gunlocks will be available in Greenbelt on Monday, December 29 through the police department.

The program is a partnership of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr., the Maryland State police and local law enforcement agencies and is financed through a U.S. Department of Justice grant.

**Volunteers Needed To Help Bowlers**  
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Special Programs Division, is seeking outgoing, friendly, adult volunteer scorekeepers and program assistants to help with their bowling program for adults with developmental disabilities. The program meets on Saturdays through May 2004 at the College Park AMF Bowling Center, 9021 Baltimore Blvd., College Park. Volunteers must have experience in keeping score and be able to volunteer on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information call Priscilla Love at 301-454-1448.

**School Board Gets National Award**  
The Prince George's County Board of Education has been selected by the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) to receive the 2003 School Board of the Year Award. To be considered for this award a school board must have established progressive policies on issues related to African American teachers, students and administrators, garnered support of community members, parents or staff on issues that positively impacted the quality of education for African American students and demonstrated progressive recruitment and hiring practices impacting African American teachers and staff. The school board will be recognized at NABSE's Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada on November 21.

## A Happy 75th Birthday!



PHOTO BY NANCY WEINTRAUB FINEBERG

A group of Greenbelt friends gathered at the Lakeside Drive home of Jim Cowan and Eva Garin to celebrate the 75th birthday of former resident Sue Weintraub. Sue, an accomplished amateur violinist, played for many years with the Prince George's Philharmonic Orchestra. Her husband, Dr. William Weintraub, was a physician here for many years. Left to right: Leo Walder, Marcie Walder, Sonia Garin, Dr. William Weintraub, Jim Cowan, Sue Weintraub and Eva Garin.

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14-Y Ridge Road

NEW LISTING

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*I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy Holiday!*

*I would also like to THANK my broker, Ray Wen; fellow Realtors, George Cantwell, Mike McAndrew, Tim Uber and their families; Rayetta Henson; my clients, friends and last but not least, my family, Larry, Carrie, Tom and John; for all your support and encouragement throughout the years.*

*Merry Christmas!*

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The Department is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Citizens may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522.



## Doug Peters Presents Grants for City Activities

by Diane Oberg

The last regular meeting of the 34th Greenbelt City Council started off on a very positive note. County Councilman Douglas Peters presented grants from his discretionary fund to support various activities in the city. The grants included \$5,000 for Greenbelt CARES, \$2,000 for the Advisory Committee on Education, \$2,000 for the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum, \$3,000 for the Recreation Department and \$3,000 for renovation of the Old Greenbelt Theatre building.

Council also learned of a free fire safety program and appointed new members to city boards.

### Fire Safety

Director of Planning and Community Development Celia Craze displayed what she called the most important tools available to residents to protect themselves from fire – “a \$4 smoke detector and a 99 cent battery.” Residents can contact her office (301-345-5417) to schedule a free fire safety inspection. City inspectors will identify potentially unsafe conditions in the home and provide free smoke detectors and proper guidance on their placement.

Craze noted that county code

requires detectors outside of every sleeping room and on every level of the home. Proper placement relative to ceilings and walls is required to ensure proper operation of the devices. She assured citizens that no violations will be issued as a result of these inspections.

### Other Actions

Council unanimously adopted a revised mission statement for the arts. The statement affirms “the creativity of all people and the power of art to transform individual and community life.”

Using Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, the city will purchase several video cameras to be mounted into police patrol cars.

Earlier in the meeting, council held a public hearing on the grant, as required by federal law. However, no one in the crowd that filled all the chairs, the side bench and most of the floor wished to address this issue.

Chayla Lar was appointed to the Recycling and Environment Committee. Hugh Jascourt and Sieglinde Peterson were reappointed to the Employee Relations Board.

## Legion Honors Pearl Harbor Survivors

by Al Gieger

The Greenbelt American Post 136 hosted a ceremony and banquet honoring Pearl Harbor survivors from the State of Maryland on Sunday, December 7. The program by the American Legion Department of Maryland honored four survivors who related their experiences on “a day that shall live in infamy.”

Roger Thomas, 84, was on watch at Kaneohe Bay Naval Air Station the morning of December 7, 1941. When he heard the first bomb explode he thought it was a training drill and remarked, “Those guys should be more careful, they’re going to kill somebody.” When he saw the planes were Japanese he said, “holy mackerel” or words to that effect, he said in an interview. He reported that all the American planes on the ground were destroyed. Five minutes later Pearl

Harbor was struck. Thomas, who is president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and who lives in Frederick, gave the keynote address and retold his fascinating story.

Alvis Harris, Post 233, Sykesville, related his recollection of the chaos and terror of the attack. His ship was the first one out of Pearl Harbor and into the open sea. It escaped destruction.

Jock Wogner, Post 66, Bowie, was in the Army Air Corps on December 7, 1941, but was in the hospital where he witnessed the attack. He went on to fly 73 missions, including 23 bombing runs. He was again on sick call the day the plane he was assigned to was shot down and the crew captured by the Japanese.

Michael Palchefskey of Laurel, not a member of the American Legion, was in the band of the USS California. They were on

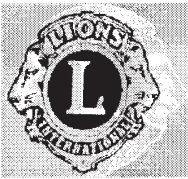
deck waiting to play the National Anthem when the attack occurred and the California was sunk. He and other survivors were able to make their way to nearby Ford Island where they watched the continuing assault.

Also honored for long-time service to the Legion and the country were Thomas Keyes, Jr., of Post 183, Parkville, and Wilfun L. Van Sant, Jr., of Post 109, Arbutus. They are both veterans of World War II and have been Legionnaires for 51 and 58 years respectively. They were given the Legion’s Distinguished Service awards.

Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 hosts the Department of Maryland’s Honors Program annually. They also sponsor many city-wide programs and activities. The Legion is an integral part of the Greenbelt community.

## Happy Holidays!

From the  
Greenbelt Lions Club



Our thanks to the Greenbelt Community for their generous and caring support of our programs, such as:

- Leader Dog for the Blind
- Holiday Toy Drive for the children of our community
- Pre-School Vision Screening (for blindness prevention)
- Support of the Wilmer Eye Clinic at John Hopkins Hospital

## Greenbelt Towns Talk in Milwaukee

Sherry Ahrentzen, Ph.D., presented a lecture entitled “The City Upon the Hill . . . In the Dale and On the Belt: from the Three Greenbelt Towns, Lessons for Today’s Community Builders” on November 6 at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Ahrentzen is a professor of architecture in the UWM School of Architecture and Urban Plan-

ning. She was the recipient of the 2003 Fromkin Research Grant.

Ahrentzen was in Greenbelt last June to learn first hand about the city. She spoke with a number of residents. She also visited Greenhills, which is outside of Cincinnati. Greendale is outside of Milwaukee.

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Member of the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

**DR. JAY MCCARL**

Dental Implant Symposium, Boston University.  
Fellow in Academy of General Dentistry.

**DR. DAVID J. MCCARL**

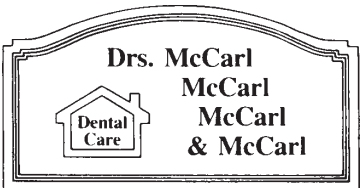
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Monday	8-5
Tuesday	9-8:30
Wednesday	9-8
Thursday	8-4
Friday	8-3
Saturday	8-12



# FORGIVENESS continued from page 1

this point in a victim’s impact statement she read to Judge Joseph P. Manck of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court: (Jessica’s father died eight years earlier and her mother had remarried.)

“When the officer called me that night, my first thought was that she was dead. I can’t explain why, I think a mother just knows things . . . . When I saw Officer Knox in the hospital parking lot, his face confirmed what I felt. Inside I was told that she had suffered a serious head injury . . . .

“When we finally got to see her that night I was surprised at how beautiful and peaceful she looked. I knew that they had removed the left side of her skull and I kept imagining that half of her face and head would be missing. Instead she just had her head bandaged with a large screw coming out of the top of it and she was on life support.

“Every moment of every day after March 23rd I waited and waited. Would she live, would she die? Would I be called into that room where they take the families to tell me that nothing more could be done and that she was brain dead . . . . Every moment . . . we looked for the next milestone, a toe movement, a twitch of the face, or a pupil with some sign of life in it.”

After two weeks, Jessica was transferred to Kernan Hospital, which has an early coma emergence program involving medication to awaken the brain. She did open her eyes, but there was no recognition. After three weeks she was returned to the Maryland Shock Trauma Center. Her condition slowly deteriorated.

“In time, it became apparent that Jessie was not going to ‘wake up,’” Monica continued in her impact statement. “I insisted that the doctor who operated on her initially replace her skull bone on June 12 . . . Jessie came home on July ninth.”

Johnston took care of her daughter, feeding her, bathing her, giving her medication and otherwise caring for her. Her condition continued to deteriorate.

**Goodbye**

“I had been sleeping in a chair next to her bed every night for the last week of her life,” Johnston continued. “That night I knew I had to leave her alone. After the hospice nurse left at midnight, I kissed my daughter goodbye for the last time. I told her how proud I had been of her and how blessed I was to have had the honor of being her mother. I told her I loved her, then I told her to go home to God. At 4:30 a.m. on the 13th of August I was awakened by a soft touch on my arm. I knew she was telling me goodbye. My Jessie was dead.”

Detectives Michelle Ludwick and Michael Korman of the U.S. Park Police pursued this case tenaciously, according to Johnston. The police had quickly identified a suspect as the driver of the minivan the night of the accident but finding him was another matter. He had family in both Washington and Frederick but never was around. When Jessica died, the hit-and-run driver was still at large. Johnston said that Park Police officers assured her at the funeral service that they would continue to vigorously

pursue the case.

**Press Conference**

This June 4 members of the U.S. Park Police held a widely-covered press conference announcing that James Ernest Penamon, a 23-year-old Washington, D.C. resident, had been indicted by a Maryland grand jury on March 7 with eight crimes, the most serious being negligent manslaughter with an auto. If found guilty of the manslaughter charge, Penamon could have been subject to a maximum penalty of a fine of \$5,000 and 10 years imprisonment. Johnston was present at the press conference and made a public plea carried on many radio and television stations for Penamon to turn himself in.

That night Penamon’s mother drove him to the Greenbelt Park Police station where he surrendered, was charged by police and taken into custody. At the time of his arraignment, Penamon had five previous convictions, two of which were for driving under the influence of alcohol and a suspended/revoked driver’s license, had failed to appear in court and had outstanding warrants, Johnston learned from police.

Police warned Johnston that the Penamon case would probably not go to trial but that instead the matter would be adjudicated with a plea bargain on a lesser charge. On November 20 Penamon pleaded guilty to homicide with a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol with the prosecutor’s concurrence on a sentence of not less than two or more than four years in prison to be imposed, although the maximum penalty that could be imposed was five years.

**Forgiveness**

Johnston watched Penamon plead guilty. Then she handed his lawyer a letter telling Penamon that she had forgiven him.

Johnston did make these requests, however. First, she asked that Penamon serve in a state correctional facility at least 145 days, the length of time her daughter was in a coma before she died. She also asked that during that time he get his G.E.D. and that he undergo alcohol and drug treatment. Also, once he is on probation that he be required to speak at MADD Victim Impact Panels. She also requested an opportunity to meet with Penamon privately after sentencing.

Also prior to sentencing, Penamon provided Johnston and the court with a letter of apology. “I pray that in your heart you know that while it was irresponsible of me to drink and drive, it was not my intention to

purposely cause deep pain to you, your family, your friends and the community at large,” he said in part. “I appreciate your willingness to forgive me and it is a burden lifted. I found it hard, almost impossible to forgive myself. My life has been scarred . . . .” Penamon also agreed to meet with Johnston, enroll in Alcoholic’s Anonymous and offer himself to community service “in honor of your family” equal to 145 days.

While Penamon told Johnston in his letter that “my family and friends have been inflicted with pain and hurt” as a result of his negligence, no family member or friend was in court in support of Penamon. Johnston, who at each court session had the support of her family, friends and Jessica’s friends, was troubled that there was no one there for him.

On December 2 Judge Manck sentenced Penamon to the maximum sentence of five years in a Maryland correctional institution. While the judge agreed to the two to four years reached in the plea bargain, he did not want the correctional system to accidentally parole him before he had served 145 days, according to Johnston. The judge agreed to come back on April 26, the 146th day following sentencing, for a modification hearing. (Judges have the authority to reconsider and amend their sentencing at a later date, a controversial procedure unique to Maryland.) At that time the judge is to consider amending the sentence to the agreed two-to-four years and permit any remaining time to be served in a county facility.

**Meeting**

Before being transferred to Baltimore for incarceration in a state institution, Johnston did meet privately with Penamon. Johnston said that he was scared to meet with her but she felt that he seemed to be better after doing it. She said that she felt sorry for him sitting there, but she also felt satisfaction. He had admitted guilt, he didn’t make any excuses and he expressed remorse to her.

“I don’t hate him,” she said. “I can understand how it came to be. He has no family support, no community support. He has a lot of strikes against him. I feel responsible to at least give him the opportunities to come out the better for it.”

“Jessica is dead,” she said, “we can’t change that, but this guy isn’t. And I’m still here. We were put into each other’s lives for some reason. He is a part of my life now. I could choose to hate him, but I choose not to.”

# Tale of the Original Black (John Henry) Santa Claus

by Elaine D. Jones

Now that diversity has reached the North Pole (Rudolph was a different kind of reindeer), I’d like to share a true story from the not-too-long-ago in honor of John Henry’s 75th Christmas.

While working at St. Elizabeth’s Psychiatric Hospital in the early ’70s, my husband started a tradition of playing Santa. Personality-wise, John Henry was a natural. Except for ruddy cheeks and a white skin, he really looked authentic in the hospital’s sumptuous antique velvet suit trimmed with thick fur and the gorgeous silky wig and beard that cascaded over his shoulders. Sooty boots, a brass-buckled wide leather belt, white gloves and his own gold-rimmed specs put lesser Santa wannabes to shame. With my help to rig three suspended feather pillows, his metamorphosis was complete.

In red and green, I dressed our pre-schoolers, Nicholas, Nathan, and Corita Kate, as elves. They skipped in, ringing sleighbells to herald Santa’s arrival and gave out gifts from his bulging sack. They were adorable! Even the sickest and most way-out patients reached out, smiling; hugs and kisses abounded.

One late December day, Santa stuffed himself behind the wheel of our station wagon (reindeer were not allowed in Lakeside North Apartments), elves and gifts piled in the back seat and headed down Kenilworth Avenue toward Southeast D.C. A woman driver glanced over from her lane, did a double-take and proceeded to blow her horn and frantically point until Santa pulled over on the shoulder behind her. She ran up, yelling “Santa, Santa, you have to come see my kids!” and grabbed his hand. Santa (more than a little suspicious about her “empty” car) thought, “Oh, great – no pocket in these pants for cash or wallet” – but up popped two little heads from the back seat. Speechless, incredulous, but soon enamored, the children laughed and hugged Santa. “Thank you, thank you, Santa! My kids have never ever seen a black Santa,” their mother said. Passing drivers braked, honked and waved

and Santa continued his rounds to locked wards, churches and foster homes, dropping in on staff parties and bringing home exhausted elves high on sugar.

One year, when Santa returned elfless, he was greeted with disappointed faces and choruses of “Where are your elves, Santa?” Alas, they’d graduated to studenthood.

John Henry, who dubbed himself “the original black Santa Claus,” then began to visit the elves’ elementary schools, John Carroll and Glenarden Woods, disrupting classes with joyous pandemonium, handing out candy canes; he was besieged by teachers vying to sit on his lap for a photo op. They whispered secret wishes in his ear and he loved it!

I’ll never forget one very dark-skinned fourth grader who eyed my husband for a long time before cautiously approaching to blurt out, “You’re not the real Santa.” Santa asked, “Why do you think that?” The boy moved close to whisper in his ear, “‘Cause the real Santa Claus is white.”

Well, the elves grew up and Santa grew a little tired of the hot heavy hair, the fat-bellied suit and the long hours. In retirement his domain shrank. He donned only Santa’s plush red cap and shaking his sleighbells, John Henry dropped by the Co-op, library, nursery school, credit union and gas station, giving holiday hugs, red carnations or candy and warm wishes to hardworking folks throughout Greenbelt. The Jones Family wishes that you may find joy and peace in this holiday season of goodwill to all.




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**Greenbelt New Year  
2004**  
Buy your tickets at the  
Community Center



Season's Greetings  
and Happy New Year  
to All

From your friends at  
Generous Joe's



TO ALL OUR  
GREENBELT  
FRIENDS  
AND  
NEIGHBORS

WISHING YOU  
A BRIGHT AND  
HAPPY HOLIDAY  
SEASON

GREENBELT CO-OP  
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# Holiday Greetings

from one neighbor . . . ❄



**Holiday Greetings**  
To Friends,  
old and new,  
And a Healthy and  
Happy New Year, too.  
Liz & Charlie Nash  
and Philip Pels

Mary and Al Geiger  
wish all of  
their Greenbelt friends  
a Happy Christmas and  
healthy and prosperous  
New Year.

*Joyous Holiday  
Greetings  
To all my neighbors  
and friends,  
Ruth Bond*

**To All My  
GREENBELT FRIENDS  
and  
NEIGHBORS**

*May the beauty of nature  
remind us of the wonder  
of this season.*

**Judith "J" Davis**

*Season's Greetings*

*from Sophia Kean,  
Mary Lou and Jim  
Williamson*




**Season's Greetings  
and Best Wishes for the New Year**  
Leta and Darrell Mach

. . . to another!



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
GENE KELLAHER FAMILY  
1937-2003**

**Season's  
Greetings  
Gil & Micki  
Weidenfeld**

  
**Holiday Greetings**  
To all our Greenbelt friends,  
may this holiday season  
be filled with the joy of  
family and friends  
and the New Year  
filled with peace  
and fulfillment.  
Bernie and Jim Giese





# CARES Shares Some Thoughts on Homework

Ask students what homework is and they will provide a list of descriptive words, many of them not very positive. Younger students say homework is fun. Older students say homework is tedious, annoying, boring, repetitive, difficult, unnecessary, punitive and unhealthy.

What is homework? Homework: teaches good study habits, reinforces skills, creates discipline, keeps the information fresh in the student's mind, helps students with memorization, gives students a chance to absorb information presented in class, stimulates students to learn more about a subject.

Here are suggestions to help make homework a learning experience:

Allow students to study in a way they do best. Some students study better with noise, others need a quiet area. Some students work better at a desk or table, others prefer working on the floor. Know which environment works best for the student.

Create a learning environment. Make sure there is good lighting. Make sure the student has the right supplies (appropriate textbooks, adequate paper, sharpened pencils, working pens, rulers). Make sure the student is well nourished and well rested before working on assignments. Encourage the student to use resources: the library, the computer, homework hotlines. Ultimately students should learn to complete homework independently, with the knowledge that parents and other resources are available as needed.

Parents are an important part of homework. Parents can help by taking a positive interest in the child's schooling and by giving positive reinforcement for their efforts. Parents can support the process by helping the student read and understand directions and the assignment, discussing assignments with the student and checking over homework. Parents can remind the student of the importance of education and model this by keeping in close contact with the school and teacher and participating in the school PTA. Parents should be aware of homework policies and talk to teachers about their ideas about homework. This includes being aware of a homework hotline and how much time a student should be spending on specific assignments. Finally parents should know the policy regarding assignments turned in late or missed because of illness.

Teaching homework skills and incorporating positive learning strategies provides a structure that the students can use for the rest of their lives. The more students put into it, the more they will get out of it. The more involved the parent, the better off the student.

Good luck and do the homework!

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\*\*\*\*\*

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# HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Each year at this time we come together with family and friends to celebrate the holidays. As 2003 draws to a close, the City Council, City employees, and members of Council's Advisory Boards and Committees wish all citizens a safe and joyful holiday and a prosperous New Year.

## City Council, Advisory Boards & Committees, & Employees of the City of Greenbelt

### City Council

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Leta M. Mach  
Edward V.J. Putens

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Asst. to the City Manager  
Kathleen Gallagher,  
City Clerk  
Anne Marie Belton  
Gwen Worley

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Community Resource  
Advocate

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Public Information and  
Communications Coord.  
David Barnes  
Icaro Goes  
Ashley Jones  
Andrew Mayer  
Nirav Thaker  
Katrina Walk  
Amanda Wildoner

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Curator

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